

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2750

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2007

Received

AUGUST 3, 2007

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban
Affairs

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins
in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the estab-
lishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
tration.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “NASA 50th Anniver-
3 sary Commemorative Coin Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
7 ministration began operation on October 1, 1958,
8 with about 8,000 employees and an annual budget
9 of \$100,000,000.

10 (2) Over the next 50 years, the National Aero-
11 nautics and Space Administration has been involved
12 in many defining events which have shaped the
13 course of human history and demonstrated to the
14 world the character of the people of the United
15 States.

16 (3) Among the many firsts by the National Aer-
17 onautics and Space Administration are the following:

18 (A) On December 6, 1958, the United
19 States launched Pioneer 3, the first United
20 States satellite to ascend to an altitude of
21 63,580 miles.

22 (B) On March 3, 1959, the United States
23 sent Pioneer 4 to the Moon, successfully mak-
24 ing the first United States lunar flyby.

1 (C) On April 1, 1960, the United States
2 launched TIROS 1, the first successful mete-
3 orological satellite, observing Earth's weather.

4 (D) On May 5, 1961, Freedom 7, carrying
5 Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr., was the first
6 American space flight involving human beings.

7 (E) On February 20, 1962, John Glenn
8 became the first American to circle the Earth,
9 making three orbits in his Friendship 7 Mer-
10 cury spacecraft.

11 (F) On December 14, 1962, Mariner 2 be-
12 came the first spacecraft to commit a successful
13 planetary flyby (Venus).

14 (G) On April 6, 1965, the United States
15 launched Intelsat I (also known as Early Bird
16 1), the first commercial satellite (communica-
17 tions), into geostationary orbit.

18 (H) On June 3–7, 1965, the second piloted
19 Gemini mission, Gemini IV, stayed aloft for 4
20 days and astronaut Edward H. White II per-
21 formed the first EVA or spacewalk by an Amer-
22 ican.

23 (I) On June 2, 1966, Surveyor 1 became
24 the first American spacecraft to soft-land on
25 the Moon.

1 (J) On May 31, 1971, the United States
2 launched Mariner 9, the first mission to orbit
3 another planet (Mars) beginning November 13,
4 1971.

5 (K) On April 12, 1981, the National Aero-
6 nautics and Space Administration launched the
7 Space Shuttle Columbia on the first flight of
8 the Space Transportation System (STS-1).

9 (L) On June 18, 1983, the National Aero-
10 nautics and Space Administration launched
11 Space Shuttle Challenger (STS-7) carrying 3
12 mission specialists, including Sally K. Ride, the
13 first woman astronaut.

14 (M) In another historic mission, 2 months
15 later the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
16 ministration launched STS-8 carrying the first
17 black American astronaut, Guion S. Bluford.

18 (N) On July 23, 1999, the Space Shuttle
19 Columbia's 26th flight was led by Air Force
20 Col. Eileen Collins, the first woman to com-
21 mand a Shuttle mission.

22 (4) On April 9, 1959, the National Aeronautics
23 and Space Administration unveiled the Mercury as-
24 tronaut corps, 7 men with "the right stuff": John
25 H. Glenn, Jr., Walter M. Schirra, Jr., Alan B.

1 Shepard, Jr., M. Scott Carpenter, L. Gordon Co-
2 per, Virgil I. “Gus” Grissom, and Donald K.
3 “Deke” Slayton.

4 (5) On May 25, 1961, President John F. Ken-
5 nedy, reflecting the highest aspirations of the Amer-
6 ican people, proclaimed: “I believe this Nation
7 should commit itself to achieving the goal, before
8 this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon
9 and returning him safely to Earth. No single space
10 project in this period will be more impressive to
11 mankind, or more important in the long-range explo-
12 ration of space; and none will be so difficult or ex-
13 pensive to accomplish.”.

14 (6) On September 19, 1961, the National Aero-
15 nautics and Space Administration announced that
16 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
17 center dedicated to human space flight would be
18 built in Houston, Texas.

19 (7) On February 17, 1973, the Manned Space-
20 craft Center in Houston was renamed the Lyndon
21 B. Johnson Space Center.

22 (8) On December 21, 1968, Apollo 8 took off
23 atop a Saturn V booster from the Kennedy Space
24 Center for a historic mission to orbit the Moon.

1 (9) As Apollo 8 traveled outward, the crew fo-
2 cused a portable television camera on Earth and for
3 the first time humanity saw its home from afar, a
4 tiny, lovely, and fragile “blue marble” hanging in
5 the blackness of space.

6 (10) This transmission and viewing of Earth
7 from a distance was an enormously significant ac-
8 complishment and united the Nation at a time when
9 American society was in crisis over Vietnam, race re-
10 lations, urban problems, and a host of other difficul-
11 ties.

12 (11) On July 20, 1969, Apollo 11 astronauts
13 Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin made the
14 first lunar landing mission while Michael Collins or-
15 bited overhead in the Apollo command module.

16 (12) Armstrong set foot on the surface, telling
17 the millions of listeners that it was “one small step
18 for a man, one giant leap for mankind”; Aldrin soon
19 followed and planted an American flag, but omitted
20 claiming the land for the United States as had rou-
21 tinely been done during European exploration of the
22 Americas.

23 (13) The 2 Moon walkers left behind an Amer-
24 ican flag and a plaque bearing the inscription:
25 “Here Men From The Planet Earth First Set Foot

1 Upon the Moon. Jul. 1969 A.D. We Came in Peace
2 for All Mankind.”.

3 (14) On April 24, 1990, the Hubble Space Tel-
4 escope was launched into space aboard the STS-31
5 mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery and since
6 then the Hubble has revolutionized astronomy while
7 expanding our knowledge of the universe and inspir-
8 ing millions of scientists, students, and members of
9 the public with its unprecedented deep and clear im-
10 ages of space.

11 (15) On July 4, 1997, the Mars Pathfinder
12 landed on Mars and on January 29, 1998, an Inter-
13 national Space Station agreement among 15 coun-
14 tries met in Washington, DC, to sign agreements to
15 establish the framework for cooperation among the
16 partners on the design, development, operation, and
17 utilization of the Space Station.

18 (16) The National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
19 ministration’s stunning achievements over the last
20 50 years have been won for all mankind at great
21 cost and sacrifice; in the quest to explore the uni-
22 verse, many National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
23 istration employees have lost their lives, including
24 the crews of Apollo 1, the Space Shuttle Challenger,
25 and the Space Shuttle Columbia.

1 (17) The success of the United States space ex-
2 ploration program in the 20th Century augurs well
3 for its continued leadership in the 21st Century; this
4 leadership is attributable to the remarkable and in-
5 dispensable partnership between the National Aero-
6 nautics and Space Administration and its 10 space
7 and research centers as follows:

8 (A) From small spacecraft to supercom-
9 puters, science missions and payloads to ther-
10 mal protection systems, information technology
11 to aerospace, the Ames Research Center in
12 California's Silicon Valley provides products,
13 technologies, and services that enable NASA
14 missions and expand human knowledge.

15 (B) The Dryden Flight Research Center,
16 the leading center for innovative flight research.

17 (C) The Glenn Research Center, which de-
18 velops power, propulsion, and communication
19 technologies for space flight systems and aero-
20 nautics research.

21 (D) The Goddard Space Flight Center,
22 which specializes in research to expand knowl-
23 edge on the Earth and its environment, the
24 solar system, and the universe through observa-
25 tions from space.

1 (E) The Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the
2 leading center for robotic exploration of the
3 Solar System.

4 (F) The Johnson Space Center, which
5 manages the development, testing, production,
6 and delivery of all United States human space-
7 craft and all human spacecraft-related func-
8 tions.

9 (G) The Kennedy Space Center, the gate-
10 way to the Universe and world leader in pre-
11 paring and launching missions around the
12 Earth and beyond.

13 (H) The Langley Research Center, which
14 continues to forge new frontiers in aviation and
15 space research for aerospace, atmospheric
16 sciences, and technology commercialization to
17 improve the way the world lives.

18 (I) The Marshall Space Flight Center, a
19 world leader in developing space transportation
20 and propulsion systems, engineers the future to
21 accelerate exploration and scientific discovery.

22 (J) The Stennis Space Center, which is re-
23 sponsible for rocket propulsion testing and for
24 partnering with industry to develop and imple-
25 ment remote sensing technology.

1 (18) The United States should pay tribute to
2 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
3 and to its successful partnerships with the space and
4 research centers, by minting and issuing a com-
5 memorative silver dollar coin.

6 (19) The surcharge proceeds from the sale of a
7 commemorative coin would generate valuable fund-
8 ing for the National Aeronautics and Space Admin-
9 istration Families Assistance Fund for the purposes
10 of providing need-based financial assistance to the
11 families of the National Aeronautics and Space Ad-
12 ministration personnel who die as a result of injuries
13 suffered in the performance of their official duties.

14 **SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.**

15 (a) DENOMINATIONS.—In commemoration of the
16 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aer-
17 onautics and Space Administration, the Secretary of the
18 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
19 retary”) shall mint and issue the following coins:

20 (1) \$50 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000
21 \$50 gold coins which shall—

22 (A) weigh 33.931 grams;

23 (B) have a diameter of 32.7 millimeters;

24 and

25 (C) contain 1 troy ounce of fine gold.

1 (2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 300,000
2 \$1 coins of each of the 9 designs specified in section
3 3(a)(3)(B), which shall—

4 (A) weigh 26.73 grams;

5 (B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

6 (C) contain 90 percent silver and 10 per-
7 cent copper.

8 (b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this
9 Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of
10 title 31, United States Code.

11 (c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section
12 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted
13 under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

14 (d) MINTAGE LEVEL LIMIT.—Notwithstanding the
15 mintage level limit described under section
16 5112(m)(2)(A)(ii) of title 31, United States Code, the Sec-
17 retary of the Treasury may mint and issue not more than
18 300,000 of each of the 9 \$1 coins authorized to be minted
19 under this Act.

20 **SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.**

21 (a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins
23 minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the 50
24 years of exemplary and unparalleled achievements of
25 the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

1 (2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On
2 each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

3 (A) a designation of the value of the coin;

4 (B) an inscription of the year “2008”; and

5 (C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”,
6 “In God We Trust”, “United States of Amer-
7 ica”, and “E Pluribus Unum”, and such other
8 inscriptions as the Secretary may determine to
9 be appropriate for the designs of the coins.

10 (3) COIN IMAGES.—

11 (A) \$50 COINS.—

12 (i) OBERVERSE.—The obverse of the
13 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear
14 an image of the sun.

15 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the
16 \$50 coins issued under this Act shall bear
17 a design emblematic of the sacrifice of the
18 United States astronauts who lost their
19 lives in the line of duty over the course of
20 the space program.

21 (iii) HIGH RELIEF.—The design and
22 inscriptions on the obverse and reverse of
23 the \$50 coins issued under this Act shall
24 be in high relief.

25 (B) \$1 COINS.—

1 (i) OBVERSE.—The obverse of the \$1
2 coins issued under this Act shall bear 9
3 different designs each of which shall con-
4 sist of an image of 1 of the 9 planets of
5 the solar system, including Earth.

6 (ii) REVERSE.—The reverse of the \$1
7 coins issued under this Act shall bear dif-
8 ferent designs each of which shall be em-
9 blematic of the contributions of the re-
10 search and space centers, subject to the
11 following requirements:

12 (I) EARTH COIN.—The reverse of
13 the \$1 coins issued under this Act
14 which bear an image of the Earth on
15 the obverse shall bear images emblem-
16 atic of, and honoring, the discoveries
17 and missions of the National Aero-
18 nautics and Space Administration, the
19 Mercury, Gemini and Space Shuttle
20 missions and other manned Earth-or-
21 biting missions, and the Apollo mis-
22 sions to the Moon.

23 (II) JUPITER COIN.—The reverse
24 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act
25 which bear an image of the planet Ju-

1 piter on the obverse shall include a
2 scientifically accurate depiction of the
3 Galilean moon Europa and depict
4 both a past and future mission to Eu-
5 ropa.

6 (III) SATURN COIN.—The reverse
7 of the \$1 coins issued under this Act
8 which bear an image of the planet
9 Saturn on the obverse shall include a
10 scientifically accurate depiction of the
11 moon Titan and depict both a past
12 and a future mission to Titan.

13 (IV) PLUTO (AND OTHER DWARF
14 PLANETS) COIN.—The reverse of the
15 \$1 coins issued under this Act which
16 bear an image of the planet Pluto on
17 the obverse shall include a design that
18 is emblematic of telescopic exploration
19 of deep space by the National Aero-
20 nautics and Space Administration and
21 the ongoing search for Earth-like
22 planets orbiting other stars.

23 (4) REALISTIC AND SCIENTIFICALLY ACCURATE
24 DEPICTIONS.—The images for the designs of coins
25 issued under this Act shall be selected on the basis

1 of the realism and scientific accuracy of the images
2 and on the extent to which the images are reminis-
3 cent of the dramatic and beautiful artwork on coins
4 of the so-called “Golden Age of Coinage” in the
5 United States, at the beginning of the Twentieth
6 Century, with the participation of such noted sculp-
7 tors and medallie artists as James Earle Fraser, Au-
8 gustus Saint-Gaudens, Victor David Brenner, Ad-
9 olph A. Weinman, Charles E. Barber, and George T.
10 Morgan.

11 (b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted
12 under this Act shall be—

13 (1) selected by the Secretary after consultation
14 with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics
15 and Space Administration and the Commission of
16 Fine Arts; and

17 (2) reviewed by the Citizens Coin Advisory
18 Committee.

19 **SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.**

20 (a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this
21 Act shall be issued in proof quality only.

22 (b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United
23 States Mint may be used to strike any particular combina-
24 tion of denomination and quality of the coins minted under
25 this Act.

1 (c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may
2 issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year
3 period beginning on January 1, 2008.

4 (d) ISSUANCE OF GOLD COINS.—Each gold coin
5 minted under this Act may be issued only as part of a
6 complete set with 1 of each of the 9 \$1 coins minted under
7 this Act.

8 **SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.**

9 (a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act
10 shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum
11 of—

12 (1) the face value of the coins;

13 (2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with
14 respect to such coins; and

15 (3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins
16 (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery,
17 overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

18 (b) PREPAID ORDERS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept
20 prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act
21 before the issuance of such coins.

22 (2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to pre-
23 paid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a rea-
24 sonable discount.

1 (c) PRESENTATION.—In addition to the issuance of
2 coins under this Act in such other methods of presentation
3 as the Secretary of the Treasury determines to be appro-
4 priate, the Secretary shall provide, as a sale option, a pres-
5 entation case which displays the \$50 gold coin in the cen-
6 ter surrounded by the \$1 silver coins in elliptical orbits.
7 All such presentation cases shall bear a plaque with appro-
8 priate inscriptions that include the names and dates of the
9 spacecraft missions on which United States astronauts
10 lost their lives over the course of the space program and
11 the names of such astronauts.

12 **SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins minted under
14 this Act shall include a surcharge as follows:

15 (1) A surcharge of \$50 per coin for the \$50
16 coin.

17 (2) A surcharge of \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin.

18 (b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f) of
19 title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by
20 the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act
21 shall be promptly distributed as follows:

22 (1) The first \$4,000,000 available for distribu-
23 tion under this section, to the NASA Family Assist-
24 ance Fund for the purposes of providing need-based
25 financial assistance to the families of NASA per-

sonnel who die as a result of injuries suffered in the performance of their official duties.

(2) Of amounts available for distribution after the payment under paragraph (1), $\frac{1}{2}$ of the next \$1,000,000 to each of the following:

(A) The Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational (D.R.E.M.E.) Science Literacy Foundation for the purposes of improving and strengthening the process of teaching and learning science, math, and technology at all educational levels, elementary through college through the promotion of innovative educational programs.

(B) The Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence for the purposes of supporting the work of the Foundation in building critical thinking skills, experiential teaching methods, science literacy, and integrated approaches to learning and individual responsibility in achieving excellence.

(3) The remainder of the amounts available for distribution after the payments under paragraphs (1) and (2), to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution for the preservation, maintenance, and display of space artifacts at the National Air and Space

1 Museum (including the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Cen-
2 ter).

3 (c) AUDITS.—The NASA Family Assistance Fund,
4 the Dr. Ronald E. McNair Educational Science Literacy
5 Foundation, the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excel-
6 lence, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution
7 shall be subject to the audit requirements of section
8 5134(f)(2) of title 31, United States Code, with regard
9 to the amounts received under subsection (b).

10 (d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
11 no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance
12 under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as
13 of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin
14 would result in the number of commemorative coin pro-
15 grams issued during such year to exceed the annual 2
16 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under
17 section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in
18 effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out
20 this subsection.

21 **SEC. 8. BRONZE DUPLICATES.**

22 The Secretary may strike and sell bronze duplicates
23 of the \$50 gold coins authorized under this Act, at a price
24 the Secretary determines to be appropriate. Such dupli-

- 1 cates shall not be considered to be United States coins
- 2 and shall not be legal tender.

Passed the House of Representatives July 30, 2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.